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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA WANTS MORE INFO ON U.S. WTO REMAN
INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 36987

11. (SBU) Summary: Australia is not at the moment in a position to agree to cosponsor the US WTO remanufacturing initiative text, but does not rule it out. The Australians suggest a dialogue on this issue, preferably in Geneva. End summary.

12. (SBU) Deputy Econcouns met with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) First Assistant Secretary (Acting) for Trade Negotiation Tim Yeend on April 16 to seek Australian cosponsorship of the US WTO remanufacturing initiative text (reftel). Yeend said that the GOA had not yet determined how it will position itself on the remanufacturing initiative. He said there were some

concerns, given Australia's approach domestically to remanufactured goods. Specifically, he said they need to take into account domestic requirements for conformity assessments and product labeling, and how WTO action would affect it, before being able to take a position on the remanufacturing initiative.

13. (SBU) Yeend said Australia is anxious to send positive signals to help move NAMA and the entire Doha process along. In general, if it is possible to support the remanufacturing initiative - and other sectoral proposals - Yeend said Australia is anxious to do so. Yeend said the U.S. demarche would be a chance for the GOA to revisit the issue and come to a conclusion. The GOA would like to enter a dialogue on this topic if the United States is open to it, Yeend said. He suggested that our missions in Geneva might be best placed to conduct this.

MCCALLUM